

18 JUN 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer, OL

SUBJECT : Procurement Practices of Federal Agencies With  
Regard to Electric Typewriters

REFERENCE : Ltr dtd 23 May 75 fm Director, Federal Govern-  
ment Operations (Olivetti) to D/L, same subj.  
(OL 5 2538)

Hal:

The original typewriter study (copy attached, PLEASE RETURN TO OL/SD) was completed in March 1970, and it seems to have been quite extensive. Since Mr. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a Plans and Programs Staff, OL (OL/P&PS), was a member of the study group and has access to pertinent facts, I suggest that he be tasked to respond to the letter in question.

The substance of the protest is their opinion that we do not need dual capability, i.e., 10 and 12 pitch selectivity in more than about 20 to 25 percent of our applications. Ten pitch is needed for optical character reading (OCR) and 12 for general correspondence. I believe our need for such selectivity is more like 50 to 60 percent considering both COMMO and computer applications.

I would suggest that we respond to referenced letter by stating that we are heavily involved in OCR processes and have elected to replace less expensive typewriters with the 10/12 pitch Selectric for this purpose. In so doing, the replaced typewriters are redistributed for other non-OCR requirements. Hence, we are not in the market for low-cost electric typewriters at present.

Subsequently, a new study group could be designated to review the 5-year-old study and update it. I would suggest OL/P&PS because it will involve contact with other directorates. The Offices of Communications, Security, and Joint Computer Support could well be requested to provide a member for the study group.

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25X1X1 For your information, we have recently approved the use of Olivetti electric typewriters overseas where optical reading is not required and where IBM service is not available. The Olivetti [REDACTED] is approved for overseas use. However, we cannot get into that subject with Olivetti.

[REDACTED]  
25X1A9a

Chief, Supply Division, OL

Att: as stated & original of  
OL 5 2538